

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS30575 / H0289

This legislation creates the Idaho Education Opportunity Program (IEOP) to provide families with school age students, Kindergarten to 12th Grade, a choice to utilize up to 80% of the average per student state funding. The funding for an IEOP account could be used for eligible expenses, including Tuition at an accredited private school or a Personalized Student Education Plan that would include expenditures for Textbooks, reasonable transportation, education equipment and technology, educational therapies, fees for testing, admissions, fees to manage the IEOP account, tuition for individual classes, uniforms, tutoring, and technology devices. Eligible Students from families with less than \$70,000 of Adjusted Gross Income, entering the program as a kindergarten student, or applying after having attended an Idaho Public School for 90 days in the prior school year, will have priority of appropriated funds, prior to students with AGI's greater than \$70,000. The public school district of record shall receive the remaining 20% with final distribution under the student foundation funding. The Parents agree that IEOP funds shall only be used according to the approved uses and agree that any Qualified School shall provide the parents with the results of a nationally normed assessment. Use of funds for a Personalized Student Education Plan will include a nationally normed assessment. To renew the account the parent shall demonstrate that their student is at grade level, or has shown one full year of academic growth. This legislation amends the definition of "eligible education expenses" under Empowering Parents Grants to include tuition for qualifying students with qualifying household AGI under \$40,000. The effective date of this bill is January 1, 2024 and the first applications will be received by June 15, 2024 for the 2025 school year.

FISCAL NOTE

The IEOP is subject to appropriation. For fiscal year 2024, it is estimated that the State Department of Education will need to establish staffing to handle the application and approval process. The 2024 budget will require an estimated \$200,000 appropriation for an estimated 2 staff members. We estimate that if 2,000 students apply and are qualified for IEOP funding in 2025, using 2024 budget estimates of \$8,720 state support per student, each IEOP qualified student would be eligible for \$6,975, and the district/charter school of record would receive \$1,745. The total appropriation for the IEOP account would require a total appropriation of \$17,500,000, of which \$13,080,000 is funding that would be following the student. The impact on the current funding will depend upon how this less than 1% of students switching changes individual school district divisors, and the natural student growth we have been experiencing. There are currently 319,067 students in the 2024 budget.

Contact:

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).